

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 14626 211140Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EAE-00 AID-05

/061 W

----- 007374

P R 211044Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8049

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC HONOLULU

DIA WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 14626

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: ADS 31 DECEMBER 1975

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT FAILS

REF: BANGKOK 16854 OF 23 OCTOBER 1974

1. AT A JOINT SESSION OF THE UPPER AND LOWER HOUSES OF THE THAI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JULY 21, PARLIAMENT FAILED TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE LOWERED THE MINIMUM VOTING AGE FROM 20 TO 18, AND THE MINIMUM AGE FOR PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES FROM 25 TO 23. THE BREAKDWON OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT VOTE WAS 181 FOR, 53 AGAINST, 62 ABSTAINES AND 69 ABSENTEES. THE BILL NEEDED 183 VOTES TO PASS.

2. THE MAJORITY OF THE ABSENTEES WERE SENATORS. MOST OF THE ELECTED PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO WERE ABSENT OR ABSTAINED WERE FROM THE CONSERVATIVE PRO-GOVERNMENT PARTIES. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT UNION OF PARTIES, AT AN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 14626 211140Z

EARLIER MEETING, DID NOT TAKE A STAND ON THE CONSTITU-

TIONAL AMENDMENT AND ALLOWED EACH PARLIAMENTARIAN TO VOTE HIS CONSCIENCE.

3. COMMENT: THE RESULT OF THE VOTE CAUSED HARE FEELINGS BETWEEN THE LIBERALS AND THE CONSERVATIVES IN THE ELECTED LOWER HOUSE, JUST AS A SIMILAR UNSUCCESSFUL AMENDMENT ATTEMPT IN 1974 (SEE REFTEL). SINCE THE DEMOCRAT AND NEW FORCE PARTIES WERE THE PRIME MOVERS IN BRINGING THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT, THE FAILURE OF THE AMENDMENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION.

WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, SUFFRAGE, ELECTION CANDIDATES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO14626  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** AS 19751231  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750251-0187  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750735/aaaabfgb.tel  
**Line Count:** 73  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BANGKOK 16854  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FAILS  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006